

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 FRB-03 L-03

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CU-02 USIA-06 H-02 CPR-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 /087 W

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2866

PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, KU, US

SUBJECT: KUWAIT FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI'S VISIT TO US

SUMMARY: EMBOFF DISCUSSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR FINANCE MINISTER ATEEQI'S VISIT TO US WITH HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT. AIRLINE CONNECTIONS WITHIN US MAY REQUIRE SOME ADJUSTMENTS IN ATEEQI'S PREFERRED SCHEDULE. RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND TREASURY CONSULT WITH KUWAIT EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON RE TRAVEL AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING SECURITY AND HOTEL. ATEEQI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY KHALED ABU SU'UD, HIS TOP FOREIGN INVESTMENT ADVISOR, AND WHILE IN US THE MINISTER ANTICIPATES MAKING SEVERAL PRESS AND TV INTERVIEWS. ATEEQI'S OFFICE HAS INDICATED A DESIRE IN KEEPING MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON RELATIVELY UNSTRUCTURED, ALTHOUGH ANY IDEAS SECRETARY HAS ON SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE RECEIVED WITH INTEREST. ATEEQI WILL WISH TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ATEEQI AND GOK ATTACH SPECIAL IMPORTANCE TO VISIT WHICH IS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT BY KUWAITI MINISTER THAT WE CAN RECALL. END SUMMARY.

1. WE DISCUSSED ATEEQI VISIT TO US WITH HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT,

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FAISAL JAFFAR (SON OF NEW KUWAIT AMBASSADOR TO US) JULY 7.

AS NOTED BELOW, FLIGHT SCHEDULES IN US MAY REQUIRE CHANGES IN ITINERARY ATEEQI HAD HOPED TO FOLLOW. MINISTRY OF FINANCE IS IN TOUCH WITH KUWAITI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND TREASURY COORDINATE TRAVEL AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH KUWAIT EMBASSY. ATEEQI WILL BE ACCOMPANIED IN WASHINGTON BY GOK DIRECTOR OF INVESTMENTS, KHALED ABU SU'UD.

2. ATEEQI WOULD LIKE TO OBSERVE FOLLOWING ITINERARY, WHICH DIFFERS FROM THAT REPORTED IN KUWAIT 2667; ARRIVE IN BOSTON FROM GENEVA AUGUST 20 FOR PRIVATE VISIT WITH DAUGHTER. AUGUST 24 FLY FROM BOSTON TO COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA. AUGUST 26 FLY FROM COLUMBIA TO JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. AUGUST 28 FLY FROM JACKSON TO WASHINGTON WHERE HE WILL REMAIN THROUGH IMF MEETINGS.

3. ACCORDING TO FLIGHT INFORMATION AVAILABLE LOCALLY, ATEEQI WOULD HAVE TO PLAN TO FLY BOTH TO COLUMBIA FROM BOSTON AND TO JACKSON FROM COLUMBIA VIA ATLANTA. MOREOVER, ONLY DIRECT FLIGHT FROM JACKSON TO WASHINGTON ARRIVES AT NATIONAL AIRPORT AT 5:38 PM ON AUGUST 28, WHICH WOULD BE TOO LATE TO MAKE AFTERNOON APPOINTMENT SUGGESTED BY SECRETARY SIMON IN STATE 142048.

4. JAFFAR HAS CABLED KUWAIT EMBASSY WASHINGTON REQUESTING ON URGENT BASIS INFO RE DOMESTIC FLIGHTS. HE TOLD EMBOFF ATEEQI HAD HOPED TO REMAIN IN BOSTON FOUR DAYS, BUT HE MAY BE WILLING LEAVE DAY EARLY SO THAT HE CAN ADHERE TO ORIGINAL MEETING TIME WITH SECRETARY SIMON. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FLIGHT INFO WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE ASAP.

5. ON OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, JAFFAR REQUESTED SECURITY PROTECTION FOR ATEEQI AT LEAST DURING PUBLIC (I.E. NON-BOSTON) PORTIONS OF HIS TRIP. EMBASSY ASSUMES WASHINGTON AGENCIES WILL WORK THIS OUT WITH USSS. WE RECOMMEND THAT OFFICIALS INVOLVED COORINATE SECURITY MEASURES WITH KUWAIT EMBASSY.

6. JAFFAR POINTED OUT THAT, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PROTOCOL, WHEN A MINISTER IS OFFICIALLY INVITED FROM ABROAD GOK PAYS HOTEL BILL. IS USG PRACTICE THE SAME? IF SO, DEPARTMENT REQUESTED MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ATEEQI TO STAY AT SHOREHAM HOTEL, WHICH WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO BE CONVENIENT FOR IMF MEETING. FYI FOR SECURITY REASONS, HIS STAFF AND KUWAIT EMBASSY WANTED HIM TO STAY AT EMBASSY, BUT ATEEQI PREFERS SHOREHAM. ATEEQI TENDS EQUATE PROTOCOL (E.G. BEING MET BY SECRETARY, HAVING USG PAY HOTEL ROOM DURING OFFICIAL BILATERAL MEETING PERIOD) WITH OFFICIAL NATURE OF HIS VISIT, AND IT IS "OFFICIALNESS" OF VISIT THAT MAKES IT OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. AS FAR AS WE CAN RECALL, APART FROM AMIR'S STATE VISIT TO US IN 1968, THIS WILL BE FIRST "OFFICIAL"

VISIT BY KUWAITI MINISTER TO US. END FYI.

7. DEPARTMENT WILL WANT TO ARRANGE CUSTOMS COURTESIES FOR ATEEQI ON HIS ARRIVAL IN US AT BOSTON ON AUGUST 20 ALONG LINES CONTAINED IN STATE 148275.

8. JAFFAR ALERTED US TO ATEEQI'S PLANS TO HOLD SEVERAL PRESS AND TV INTERVIEWS IN US. GOK IS MAKING PRESS ARRANGEMENTS DIRECTLY WITH NEWSPAPERS AND TELEVISION STATIONS. NO DETAILS AVAILABLE, ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY WILL MEET WITH LOCAL PRESS IN COLUMBIA AND JACKSON. ATWWQI HOPES TO TAKE PART IN LIVE PROGRAMS BECAUSE HE IS UNHAPPY WITH EDITING DONE BY NBC ON EARLIER OCCASION.

9. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY SPECIFIC SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS ATEEQI WILL WANT TO RAISE DURING MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON. WE TOLD THAT MINISTER PREFERS KEEP MEETING RELATIVELY UNSTRUCTURED ALONG LINES SUGGESTED IN SECRETARY SIMON'S LETTER OF FEB 15. NEVERTHELESS, IF SECRETARY WISHES TO INDICATE WHAT HE HOPES TO DISCUSS ATEEQI WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING THAT INFORMATION. JAFFAR TOLD EMBOFF ATEEQI WOULD RPT WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH MEMBERS OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

10. COMMENT: DESPITE STIFF GOK STANCE ON PROTOCOL MATTERS, OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT ATEEQI ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO VISIT AND HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON. JAFFAR HAS STRESSED THAT ATEEQI WILL WANT TO EXPLORE WITH SECRETARY SIMON AREAS OF COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN US AND KUWAIT. MOREOVER, IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE IN US ATEEQI WILL MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO EXPLAIN AS THOUGHTFULLY AND FORCEFULLY AS HE CAN KUWAITI AND ARAB POLICIES. THUS, HIS VISIT IS IMPORTANT POLITICALLY FOR GOK IN CONTEXT ARAB-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN SUM, ATEEQI CAN BE CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPECTED TO BE STIFF ON PROTOCOL ASPECTS OF VISIT AND FIRM IN SUBSTANTIVE AREAS WHERE GOK AND USG DIFFERENCES EXIST, BUT VISIT MEANS A LOT TO HIM AND IS BEING CONSIDERED OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE BY GOK.

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